

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01503 211751Z  
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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BGEN, ETRD, GR  
SUBJECT: OBR: MARKETING IN GREECE: MARKING AND LABELING  
REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS

REF: STATE 013055

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS  
RAISED IN REFTEL:

1. THE CODE OF FOODS, BEVERAGES AND ARTICLES OF COMMON USE  
(PUBLISHED AUGUST 24, 1971, FOLIO NR 677, VOLUME II) DOES NOT  
STIPULATE ANY REQUIREMENTS FOR LABELING HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES  
WHEN PUT UP EITHER FOR RETAIL OR BULK SALE. WITH REFERENCE  
TO FOOD PRODUCTS, HOWEVER, THE CODE DOES STIPULATE THE CHEMICAL  
ADDITIVES (COLORING, FLAVORS, ETC) WHICH ARE PERMITTED. WITH  
REGARD TO NON-FOOD COMMODITIES, THE SUPREME CHEMICAL COUNCIL  
SYSTEMATICALLY EXAMINES NEW FINDINGS ON HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND  
ISSUES RESTRICTIONS PROHIBITING THE SALE OF SUCH PRODUCTS WHEN  
NECESSARY. (ALTHOUGH IT IS WIDELY ACCEPTED THAT TOBACCO MAY BE  
HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH, NO PROHIBITIONS ON SALE OR LABELING  
REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN PUT IN EFFECT)
2. METRIC MEASURES MUST BE PRINTED ON CONTAINERS. IF IMPERIAL  
MEASURES ARE USED ON CONTAINERS OF IMPORTED PRODUCTS, CORRESPONDING  
METRIC MEASURES MUST ALSO BE PRINTED.

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3. THE COMMON NAME OF ALL INGREDIENTS OF A FOOD PRODUCT MUST BE  
LISTED IN RANK ORDER BEGINNING WITH THE INGREDIENT OF HIGHEST  
CONTENT. THE RANKING ORDER IS NOT REQUIRED, HOWEVER, WHEN THE  
QUANTITY OF EACH INGREDIENT IS SHOWN. IN EITHER CASE, THE  
INGREDIENTS MUST APPEAR ON THE MAIN AND MOST OBVIOUS SIDE OF  
THE PACKING IN THE GREEK LANGUAGE. IF ANY ADDITIVES (ARTIFICIAL  
FLAVORS.

COLORING, PRESERVATIVES, ETC) HAVE BEEN USED, THEY TOO MUST BE DESCRIBED IN DETAIL. PERCENTAGES OF ALL COMPOUNDS MUST BE INDICATED AND SHOULD TOTAL EXACTLY 100.0 PERCENT. (THE PRECISE RECIPE OR METHOD OF PREPARATION OF A FOOD OR OTHER INDICATIONS OF PRODUCT USE MUST ALSO BE SHOWN IF UNKNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC).

4. BY LEGISLATIVE DECREE 293/1969, GREECE HAS ADOPTED THE LITER AS A MEASUREMENT UNIT ONLY IN THE CASE OF LIQUID FUEL (MAINLY SOLD BY GAS STATIONS). PRESCRIBED SIZES IN WEIGHTS OF 250, 500 1000, 2000 AND 5000 GRAMS ARE APPLICABLE ON RETAIL SALE PACKING FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS, MAINLY FOOD (SUGAR, FLOUR, ETC). THE QUANTITY INDICATED ON ANY PACKING MUST REFER TO THE NET WEIGHT (FOR EXAMPLE, THE NET WEIGHT OF FISH OR OLIVES IN CANS) AND BE EXPRESSED IN GRAMS OR KILOGRAMS, UNLESS OTHERWISE STIPULATED BY

PERTINENT MARKET POLICE PROVISIONS.

5. GREECE HAS ONLY PARTLY ADOPTED THE METRIC SYSTEM. BY LEGISLATIVE DECREE 3957/1959, IT HAS ADOPTED THE METER AND KILOGRAM AS WELL AS THEIR DECIMAL MULTIPLES AND SUBMULTIPLES. L.D. 3957 FURTHER PROVIDES FOR GRADUAL ADOPTION OF OTHER FUNDAMENTAL AND DERIVATIVE UNITS OF THE SI, WHICH WILL BE EFFECTED WITH A VIEW TOARDS GREECE'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC. MILLS

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